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PRESS RELEASE

DELEGATION FROM USAID WASHINGTON VISITS BANGLADESH

DHAKA, MARCH 25 -- Donald Steinberg, Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) based in Washington D.C., arrives in Bangladesh on March 26th for a three-day visit to further the partnership between the U.S. and Bangladesh through development assistance, with a particular focus on climate change and gender. During his visit, he will meet with Government of Bangladesh (GoB) officials, including the Ministers of Agriculture and Environment and Forests. He will also launch USAID's new environment conservation initiative, the Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) project, a five year, \$35 million program to involve communities in the management of key ecosystems and develop alternative livelihoods for them to reduce dependence on protected area resources. Mr. Steinberg's areas of focus include integration and mainstreaming of gender and disabilities into USAID programming; and enhanced dialogue with development partners, including civil society, business, foreign donors, international institutions, Congress and other U.S. Government agencies.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, has provided over \$6 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In 2012 alone, USAID provided more than \$200 million to improve the lives of people in Bangladesh. USAID supports programs in Bangladesh that: promote democratic institutions and practices, expand food security and economic opportunity, improve health and education services, and increase resiliency to climate change through adaptation and low carbon development.

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